

Memorial Methodist Church

MCCOOK NE

 ♦
105 East E St


It is well with my soul

The great hymn, It is Well with My Soul, was written by Horatio Spafford after all four of his daughters had been lost at sea.

Verse one includes these words:

*When peace like a river
attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea
billows roll*

*Whatever my lot, Thou
hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my
soul.*

It took deep faith and assurance that comes from a place of deep peace of soul for Spafford to write those last words, "It is well with my soul."

How is it with your soul? The Methodist answer is "It is well with my soul." It would be, but if we're honest, that's not always the case, especially in difficult times and trying circumstances. Nothing can throw me into a pit quite like circumstances I can't control. That's the place anxiety threatens to swallow me whole as my mind races through all the fear of the unknown.

The story of Daniel in the Bible is an encouragement to me. Daniel 6:1-15 gives us a clear picture of what we can do when all that feels

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45 Contemporary
10:45 Traditional

LIVIN' OUT LOUD

August 16th
Gothenburg, NE
4PM Leave from
church parking lot

SUMMER POTLUCK August 24th

KICK OFF August 27th

safe and secure in our lives begins to come under attack. In verse 10, Daniel has just learned that anyone caught praying to someone besides King Darius will be thrown into the lions' den. Can you imagine the level of fear this edict could have stirred up in Daniel? He easily could've found himself in a pit of despair before he ever came close to that pit full of lions, but his reaction is amazing.

Daniel goes home, throws his windows open, and prays anyway. Do you know what he chose to pray? Did he ask God to save him? Did he complain that what had happened was unfair? Did he ask God to destroy his enemies and wipe them out? Did he ask God to save him? Nope. *"He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously"* (6:10b).

Daniel's response is contrary to the way most of us would react. As we explore his response, we discover three powerful truths we can remember and live out:

1) Thankfulness must become a habit. Our initial responses are usually a by-product of the rituals we've established in our lives. Since prayers of thanks were Daniel's reaction, that tells me gratitude and trust in God were front and center in his heart. Daniel was able to give thanks, even in the midst of uncontrollable

circumstances, because it's a habit he'd already formed in his life. Are you generally thankful?

2) We fight fear the moment we start giving thanks. Being thankful helped Daniel combat fear. Never once does the story mention Daniel trying to hide. He also didn't try to control or manipulate his situation. He simply threw his windows open and prayed where anyone and everyone could see. Let me be clear: Daniel wasn't living in denial of his circumstances; he was turning to God in the midst of them.

3) We can't always fix our circumstances, but we can fix our eyes on God. Daniel's posture during prayer is revealing. First, he prays toward Jerusalem, a posture based on King Solomon's words during the temple dedication (1 Kings 8:35-51). Daniel knew where his help and his hope came from, it came from God, and God alone. Second, he was kneeling as he prayed a sign of both self-awareness and God-awareness. It's an act of deep humility. We may not always be kneeling when we

pray, but we can always choose the posture of Daniel's heart.

How is it with your soul?

Friends, we are living in conflicted and confusing times. Perhaps the best thing we can do is learn from Daniel and give thanks, especially now, and ask the Lord to help us humbly and gratefully fix our eyes on Him instead of fixating on our problems. Let's allow Daniel's life to be proof to our hearts that the words of Isaiah 26:3 are indeed true: "God can keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on him, because they trust in him." May God grant us the peace we seek so it can be well with our souls.

I wish you Jesus, and currently, "It is well with my soul." What about you?



Pastor Jeff Kelley

Little Blessings Preschool

We are seeking substitute teachers for the preschool room. We do have to conduct background checks and complete a couple of other forms to comply with state licensing requirements. However, if you're interested in working with young children, please give me a call at 345-6335. We are looking forward to having our classes start on September 2nd. It's exciting to get back into a new school year and build relationships with all our students.

Blessings,
Traci Wiemers



Backpack Blessings, Bible Gifts & Fall Faith Programs

Blessing of the Backpacks

The Blessing of the Backpacks will take place during both worship services at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 17th. (No need to attend both—just choose one!) Children are invited to bring their backpacks as we join together in prayer and ask for a special blessing from our leadership team to help prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming school year.

The following third graders will also be receiving Bibles that morning: Abigail Clausen, Oliver Cuellar, Kenna Dixon, Kaitlyn Fulkerson, Landon Hagemann, Judd Jensen, Henry Kollmorgen, Camden Loper, Lola Pianalto, Micah Priebe, Londyn Reichert, Sawyer Sutton, Claire Thompson, and Cliff Uerling.

If you know of a child not on this list that will be in 3rd grade or an older child that hasn't received a Bible from the church, please contact the church office.

WOW (Worship on Wednesday)

WOW Youth Group returns on Wednesday, September 3rd from 6:00–7:30 PM! We'll start together in the chapel before splitting into groups. A meal will be served each week. Classes are available for children from preschool through 8th grade. We're excited to welcome everyone back!

Sunday School – will resume September 7th. Preschool through 5th graders will meet upstairs in the Youth Center between services. 6th-12th will be meeting in the Library.

Registration Forms need to be completed before classes begin, so we have contact/emergency contact information. Registration can be found on the homepage of our website: mccookmmc.com



Upcoming Events

AUGUST 16

Livin' Out Loud // Gothenburg, NE
Leave at 4PM from church parking lot
Bring lawn chairs, there will be food
venders & activities

AUGUST 17

Blessing of Backpacks

AUGUST 24

End of Summer Potluck

AUGUST 27

5:30-7:30
Back to School Kick Off
For all ages

SUNDAY

Worship Services 8:45 am & 10:45 am
Nursery 8:30-12 pm

MONDAY

Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm

Thank you for reading!

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH	308-345-2445
mccookmmc.com	105 East E St McCook, NE 69001
